

3. (Amended) A system according to claim 5, wherein a refractive index of the dichroic film increases or decreases from one end side to the other end side in the inclining direction.

4. (Amended) A system according to claim 5, wherein the optical thickness of the dichroic film increases as an incident angle of the reflected chromatic light on the dichroic film increases.

5. (Amended) A color combining optical system for combining color light reflected by a dichroic film and color light transmitted through the dichroic film,

wherein an optical thickness of the dichroic film increases or decreases from one end side to the other end side in an inclining direction of the dichroic film with respect to an incident optical axis of the color light reflected by the dichroic film,

wherein said optical system comprises a color combining prism, and the dichroic film is formed at the inside of said color combining prism.

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Please add new claim 27 as follows

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-- 27. (New) A dichroic prism comprising:

a plurality of prisms cemented to one another; and

a dichroic film formed on an interface between the plurality of prisms,

wherein a thickness of the dichroic film changes along the interface. --

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